



The existence of man depends on six inches of topsoil & the water that falls on it.....Save them

STONE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Newsletter

WINTER 2010

Planning on Planting?

Spring is around the corner and thoughts may include improvement of pasture or hay land on your farm. Grass grows beef and good soil grows grass. A simple soil test can help determine the fertility and PH of your soil; a necessary step for proper applications of lime and fertilizer or litter on the land.

The past two growing seasons have been blessed with rain water leading to lush grass lands. However, areas of our local soils have a tendency to lose moisture rapidly due to content and slope. The soil becomes dry causing poor grass stands or loss of clover-legumes stands leading to wind and water erosion. These fields need to be evaluated and treated and may qualify for state cost-share assistance.

Assistance offered by the local Soil & Water Conservation District may include sharing the cost of needed lime, fertilizer, seed and no-till equipment. Contracts for grass-legume establishment pay up to \$85 per acre and \$35 per acre for vegetative improvement (planting legumes only). Eligibility for seeding programs will be pre-determined by the local technician.



Manage Forage with Rotational Grazing

MANAGEMENT—INTENSIVE GRAZING SCHOOL

A 3 day seminar on Management Intensive Grazing for economic and environmental sustainability. Mandatory attendance of a certified grazing school is necessary to participate in cost share programs in planned grazing systems.

Look for list of participating grazing schools coming in April.....

For further information contact the SWCD office at 417-723-8389.

For the Kids...

Go outside with XPLOR magazine! Missouri Dept of Conservation has new free magazine out for kids. Six times a year XPLOR magazine is sent out with stories about Missouri's cool critters, activities, and people that have made a living in the wild. Go to www.XplorMo.org and sign up Now!

If you have received this publication in error or wish to be removed from the mailing list please call 417 723-8389

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Election & Open House

Election Forthcoming for Stone County SWCD

The Stone County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an election for one Supervisor each in Area 2 and Area 4 on March 11, 2010, from noon to 6:00 pm at the district office located at 108 B Cortney Lane in Crane, MO 65633

Nominating Committees for the election have been established and are land representatives residing in the same area of the vacancy include: Area 2: Sheri Mallonee of Billings, Kenny Robertson of Crane and Dale Burton of Billings. Area 4: Joyce Finch, Joy Miller and Ed Badley all of Blue Eye.

Nominating committees for the election have submitted names of the following qualifying candidates:

Area 2: Candidate 1 of Crane, Larry Israel

Candidate 2 of Billings, Rick Squibb

Area 4: Candidate 1 of Blue Eye, Jerry Youngblood, of who is currently serving.

Two other candidates were nominated, but both declined to run at this time.

Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election needs to be held and have secured 10 signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on a petition and submit the petition to the Stone County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at least 10 days before election.

To be a candidate for the Soil and Water Conservation District election, a person shall be:

1. A land representative in Stone County;
2. A resident taxpaying citizen within the SWCD for two years next preceding the election date;
3. A cooperater of the SWCD described as: A person who is actively engaged in farming and practices conservation activities related to agriculture;
4. Reside in or own a farm lying in the same territory where the vacancy is for which the nominating committee has responsibility.

Supervisors administer District policies, programs, personnel and funds. The District is supported by the one-tenth of one percent parks, soils and water sales tax, and other sources.

For additional information on the district election, contact the District office by phone at 417-723-8389 or by mail to: Stone Co. SWCD, 108-B Cortney Lane, Crane, MO 65633. If you have questions as to the boundary lines of the areas described above, please call and we can be more specific knowing your location.

OPEN HOUSE



Come join staff at our office during the hours of 12-4 pm for our open house on election day. We will have food, and various snacks available to you as we meet with one another in discussion on topics that are important to you. We hope to have staff available also from partnering agencies, such as DNR, NRCS, and MDC. Board members will have engaged in their normal monthly board meeting and will be on hand to meet with you directly. Come by and visit with us while casting your vote. We are here to serve you, the landowners of Stone County.



Pasture Reminders for a Profitable Forage Program

Begin planning now for spring seeding of cool season grasses and legumes. There is still time for the dormant planting period which goes through Feb 28th. A soil sample should be taken from the area to be planted to determine soil nutrient content and pH. This practice more than any other affects the level and economic efficiency of forage production. Fertilizing and liming as needed help ensure good yields, improves quality, lengthens stand life and reduces weed problems.

Use legumes when feasible for they offer important advantages including improved forage quality and biological nitrogen fixation, whether grown alone or with grasses. Every producer should regularly consider on a field by field basis, whether the introduction or enhancement of legumes would be beneficial and feasible. High animal gains, milk production, and reproductive efficiency require adequate nutrition. Producing high-quality forage requires knowing the factors that affect quality and managing accordingly. Matching quality to animal nutritional needs greatly increases efficiency.

For maximum forage utilization during winter months, strip-graze stockpiled grass. Use temporary fencing to allocate 3 days grazing at a time. Once livestock have grazed the forage to a height of 2-3 inches, expand the grazing area to an additional 3 day allocation.

Establishment is critical for it requires an adequate stand of plants. Mistakes can have long term consequences. Use of high-quality seed of proven varieties, timely planting and attention to detail, including seeding depths, lead to establishment success. Forages vary as to adaptation, growth, distribution, quality, yield, persistence and potential uses. Various types and classes of animals have different nutritional needs. Good planting decisions require knowing forage options for the land resources and nutritional needs of the animals. Existing forage should be grazed down close to reduce competition and to better expose the soil surface. Scout for weed pests and apply the proper control method and application necessary to minimize the problems early.

Strive to improve pasture utilization. The quantity and quality of pasture growth vary over time. Periodic adjustments in stocking rate or use of cross fencing to vary the type or amount of available forage can greatly affect animal performance and pasture species composition.

Stored feed is one of the producer's largest expenses, so lowering requirements reduces costs. Extending the grazing season with use of both cool-season and warm-season forages, stockpiling forage and grazing crop residues can reduce stored feed needs.

Profitable forage programs usually require an investment on the landowner's part with regard to planning, effort and dollars. The best and most profitable forage programs have had the most thought put into them. Always strive to continue to improve your operation.

Stone County SWCD will be glad to assist any landowner in planning, technical assistance and financial assistance through any of our cost share programs. Call or stop by to review further: 417-723-8389 or 108 B Cortney Lane, Crane Mo 65633

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108—B CORTNEY LANE
CRANE, MISSOURI 65633
PHONE: 417-723-8389

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Upcoming Events

80th Annual Stone County Livestock & Forage Conference—Thurs Feb. 11, 6-9pm

at Hurley Baptist Church—Call Stone Co SWCD or University Extension to pre-register and for more information at 357-6812; a catered BBQ meal will be provided. Reserve your Seat!

Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference—Tuesday, February 23

Registration begins 8am. University Plaza Hotel; Details at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sfc> OR call 831-5246 ext 3

Stone County Dairy Day— Wed. Feb. 24th 11-2pm at Crane Christian Church Comm. Center

To pre-register, call 357-6812 by Feb. 22; lunch provided.

Pesticide Applicator Trainings—Begin March 3 in Stone County; RSVP 357-6812

Stone County SWCD District Election & Open House—Wednesday, March 11; 12pm-6pm

Elections for Area 2 and Area 4 held at District office.-- 108 B Cortney Lane, Crane Mo. 65633

Ladies—Women In Ag Annual Conference coming to Branson this fall in Sept—Be Watching

School News

4th Grade Soil Demonstrations coming to your school March-May

Stone County Watershed Festival for 5th Graders-March 5 at Hurley Baptist Church